

*Great Britain's* GLORY:  
BEING THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
King ARTHUR;  
WITH THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF THE  
Knights of the Round Table.



Printed by and for C. Brown, and sold by the Booksellers of *Pye-corner*  
and *London-bridge*.

# To the READER.

*Courteous Reader,*

**D**URING the Revolutions of this Kingdom, such have been the Valerous Exploits of the Princes, and other Renowned Warriours, Natives, not only in this our Land and neighbouring Countries, but throughout the known World, that all Nations have stood amazed, and trembled at their Prowess: And amongst others, well may the Famous *Arthur*, that renowned British King take place; though (to lessen the Credit of his great Exploits) some envious Aliens have endeavoured to prove there was never such a Man; but since it is evident by Chronologers of the most Antiquity and Integrity, that he was the Sun of *Uter Pendragon*, of the Antient British Royal Blood, I shall not use more Arguments to manifest it to the World; but proceed to the Matter of History, as I find it layed down for the Instruction of future Ages; And remain, Reader,

*Yours, to serve you,*



J. S.

The

# The History of King *Arthur*.

## C H A P. I.

*Of the Parentage of King Arthur, with a Description of his usual Accoutrements; his Vision, and the Interpretation thereof; and how he constituted the Knights of the Round Table.*

**T**He Saxons, after the departure of the Romans, having (under the Title of Friendship) seized upon many strong Places in this Kingdom, the native Britains, after having tried their Fortunes in many dreadful Battles, were obliged to retire into *Wales* and *Cornwall*; yet retaining many Places of considerable strength: and from thence, by frequent Executions, they greatly annoyed the Enemy: not forgetting their antient Valour, and the former Glory of this Isle, amongst which was King *Uter, Pendragon*, lineally descended from the British Kings, who in the Year, *Anno 500*, began to Reign over the Britains that possessed the Mountainous County with great success, giving the Saxons many Defeats, and gaining upon them, till at last, falling in love with a fair Lady named *Igreyn*, Wife to *Algridas*, Duke of *Cornwall*, he so doated on her Beauty, that not finding her to be won by perswasion to yield her Chastity to his disposal, he plotted with *Merlyn*, a famous Necromancer of that Age, to bring his Designs about by Policy. This Necromancer undertaking the matter, the better to ease his Prince's labouring Thoughts, with Spells, and by Magick Inchantment, so wrought, that either deluding the Lady's sight, or transforming the King into the Shape of her Lord, she received him as such, and suffered him, in the absence of *Alfridas*, to enjoy her a whole Night, of whom he got our famous *Arthur*: For her Lord being in War against the West Saxons, was slain ere his return; of which the King hearing, though greatly grieved at the loss of so renowned a Subject, yet as much rejoiced that Fate gave him opportunity to procure the love of the fair Dutchess in an honourable way, which he prosecuting after the Days of Mourning were over, he so dealt with her by fair Words and rich Presents, that being now at liberty, she was contented to be his Wife, and was married to him by the Bishop of *Carlisle*, with great Pomp and Splendour; all the Lords and Nobles sub-

*The History of King Arthur.*

jeſt to his Scepter, together with their Ladies adorning their Nuptials, and aſſiſting at the Ceremony: And ſo great was the Joy, that Feaſting, Turnaments and all manner of Deſports to recreate the Senſes were held for twenty Days. Yet the Queen was troubled to find the Fruits of her Womb Increate ſo faſt, as fearing to be ſuſpected of Adultry, for well ſhe knew ſhe had been deceived, when ſhe computed the time of *Alfrydus's* Death with the ſame ſhe ſuppoſed him in her Embraces: but the King, to put her out of doubt, and to prevent melancholy thoughts, in loving wiſe revealed the whole Miſtery; yet it was agreed between them, that he ſhould be kept ſecret, and that the Child ſhould as ſoon as born, be conveyed to a truſty Guardian to prevent Coloquie. The Queen about ſix Months after the Ceremony of the Wedding was over, being brought to bed of a Son, the Child named *Arthur*, as it was reſolved, was conveyed by truſty Hands to a Lady of good Reputation, named *Marilda*, Wiſe to Sir *Eſtor*, one of the King's Knights; who brought him up in ſuch Learning as was meet for his Pears: When as his Father, worn out with the continual Follies of War, and much diſtempered through many wounds he had received, died, leaving him ſole Heir of his Dominions; who thereupon was proclaimed by moſt of the Nobility, and crowned King; tho' ſome taking the advantage of his green Years, rebelled, and raiſed divers Commotions; but he growing up, and getting the Reins of Government into his Hands, did many great Exploits, as will in the Series of this Hiſtory appear.

King *Arthur* by this time being grown up, became exceeding tall and ſtrong, inſomuch that he ſeemed more than Man, and in many Juſts and Turnaments ſo well behaved himſelf, that none could ſtand before him: A Horſe he had which he called *Beaucephalus*, after the name of the Great *Alexander's* Horſe; and he in all Exploits proved the beſt in the World: His Sword was of a large ſize, viz. five foot in length, and in breadth eight inches; cutting with two fearful edges, on which hung Death and Deſtruction: His Lance was eight Cubits, and the head thereof formed of maſſy Steel, weighing ſix Pound: His Armour was of the higheſt Proof, ſhining with Gems and burniſhed Gold: And the better to incure him to War and great Exploits, he frequently rode thus accuſtered, and often in places of greateſt danger, glorying in nothing more than his Strength and manly Prowels, delighting in nor fancying none but ſuch as were truly Valiant, and feared not Death in any of his dreadful Shapes; but to ſuch he was lavish to Exceſs. Retaining



*The History of King Arthur.*

taining no other for his Counsellor, but *Merlyn* the famous Necromancer, from whom, as from an Oracle, he received the certainty of future Events; and at his request recreated him with strange and wonderful Sight, the Representation of Magick; and amongst the rest, upon a great Plain before the King's Palace, at *Cardigan*, he raised a stately Tower, and round it a pleasant Garden adorned with Fruits and fragrant Flowers, Fish-ponds, Fountains, Bowers, and Umbrages, into which he led the King and all his Nobility, feasting them after a sumptuous manner, as they imagined; but he had no sooner reconveyed them thence, but looking back, they saw all vanish in Thunder, Lightning, and a prodigious Earthquake, to their great Amazement; yet knowing before it was but Delusion, they rested somewhat more satisfied, yet could not but think of what had passed. The day being spent in viewing this piece of Recreation, and the King ruminating many things in his Mind, at last laying him down upon his Couch he fell into a slumber, and then dreamed that he was carried into a spacious Hall, in which stood a Table of great Circumference, out of the middle of which grew an Oak and Laurel, with Crowns, Scepters, Swords, and Ensigns hanging on them, and that they were guarded by many valiant Knights, high in Prowess, and terrible to the whole World, which made him desirous to become their Associate; nor did he sooner demand it, but they joytully received him, and placing him in a Chair of Ivory and Gold, made him their Chief, and gave him a Banner with a Lion rampant portrayed thereon; and this Motto written, *viz. Ever Victorious*; upon which, the sound of Trumpets, noise of Drums, clattering of Arms, shouts and cries saluted his Ears: And he supposed he beheld Armies in rout and slaughter, scattered through the whole World, and that the Conquerors laid the Trophies at his Feet, and with an Universal Shout saluted him, *Great Monarch of the Western World*. At what time awaking, he found it but a Dream, yet revolving in his Mind the strangeness of the Fancy, the next morning he related it to his Nobles, who assured him of happy Presages, and advised him to make inquiry into the Interpretation thereof; whereupon, sending for his Necromantick Counsellor, he related it to him, who promised within a day to give him the signification of his Dream, which he did as followeth, *viz.* That by the Table was signified his Kingdom; by the Knights the Pillars and Strength thereof; by Oak and Laurel, Strength, Victory and Durance; the Crowns, Scepters, Swords and Ensigns,

### *The History of King Arthur.*

signs, the Spoiles of the Nations he should be possess'd of; and the Scheme of War, the Representations of the many dreadful Battles he should fight, wherein he should ever remain victorious; and the making him Chief, giving him the Standard, and placing him in a Chair of Ivory and Gold, denoted him deep in his Subjects Love, and that no Treason should prosper against him. This Interpretation highly pleased the King, and raised his towering Imaginations to such a pitch, that he resolv'd to spread the terror of his Arms throughout the World: Wherefore he made great Preparation of all manner of Warlike Provision, but above all of hardy and couragious Knights, inviting them from all parts to his Court; and for their better Incouragement, caused a spacious Hall three hundred Foot in length, and twenty in breadth, to be built, with Glass Turrets on the top, ceiled with Fretwork and Gold, wainscoted with Cedar, and paved with Marble, in the midst of which he placed a Round Table, at which four hundred Knights might sit, and caused it daily to be furnished with great store of choice Provision, for the Entertainment of such Men of War as would resort thither; and shortly after constituted the Order of the Round Table, allowing a Yearly Pension of a hundred Mark to such as were truly valiant, and would inrole themselves to attend his Service when Occasion required, making himself the Head Sovereign of the Order; so that by this means the valiant Men of the neighbouring Nations tendered their Service to him, and were admitted into the noble Order, but not before they had been proved in some Exploit.

### C H A P. II.

*How King Arthur warred with the Kings of Mercia, and the East Angles, who invaded his Dominions, slew a Monstrous Gyant, and put their Armies to the Rout, &c.*

**T**He King being established in his Throne, and having thus far proceeded, caused a place to be made for Justing, where once every Week his Knights exercised in Martial Order, and Justed with each other; and to him that did best, the King would frequently send one rich Present or other, himself being still a Spectator of those Exercises, and at all great Feasts present amongst them at Dinner, having a Chair like a Throne placed on that part of the Table that was towards the upper end of the Hall; but no Musick suffe'd, except the Martial Sounds of Drums, Trumpers and

*The History of King Arthur.*

and Clarions, in which most of all our Heroick Prince delighted. And now being furnished with mighty Men, that might compare to *David's* Worthies, (if not exceed them) in dreadful Feats of Arms, he passionately desired to have an honourable Occasion to try his and their Valours, which was not long wanting; For the Mercian King of the Saxons, and the King of the East Angles, presuming upon their Strength, broke into *Cornwall*, part of King *Arthur's* Dominions, and committed divers Outrages, burning, plundering, ravishing and slaughtering in such a dreadful manner, that the People (with such substance as they could convey) fled every where before them: The News of which roused our Lion like Prince, who taking with him his Guard of Knights, and eight hundred common Soldiers, the Flower of his Dominions, by swift Marches passed on, gave War the meeting, whose approach to the Enemy (being treble the number) little regarded, not doubting to give him the Overthrow, trusting greatly to the force of one *Cingeterox*, a monstrous Giant, nine Cubits high, six in Circumference, and armed with a huge Battleaxe and Coat of Mail; but the undaunted Prince, whom fear could not dismay, having animated his Soldiers, and set them in Battle array, attended by his Knights, broke through the Ramparts, killing such as guarded the Camp, and setting upon the Infidels, for so at that time they were, cutting through the thickest of them, made such a slaughter that all the way he passed was strewed with dead Bodies; yet on he pressed through lines of Death, his Heroick Champions following, as animated by the Martial Deeds of their Renowned Leader. Nor did they less annoy the Enemy, who by this time taking the Alarm in all parts, came running to oppose them, and began to make some slaughter of his Men, especially where the Giant fought; which the King perceiving, by the Cry that arose, caused his Standard, with the great Lion to advance that way, bearing down all before him, till he came to the place where he found *Cingeterox* and *Eithwailas*, the King, bathing their Axes in the Blood of his Men, of which they had slain three hundred, when as King *Arthur* with a loud voice, cried, *Turn this way, Infidels; spare the Weak, and bend your force against the Stronger.* Upon which, the Giant staring on him, with a dreadful Voice replied, *Who art thou that comes to seek thy Death?* I am a Soldier, said the King, and one that am come to fetch thy Head by way of Reprizal for the Mischiefs thou hast done in my Country, But you must get it first, said the Giant. That shall not be long, said the King; and thereupon

### *The History of King Arthur.*

on charged on the Monster so furiously with his Sword, that ere he could weild his Battle-axe with a full stroke on his Helme, which made the fire spring from thence, he made him stagger three huge Paces, and bend with his Knee to the Ground; then the Gyant (inraged) made at him, and struck at the King, so that the blow dazled him, and made his Eyes swim; but soon recovering, he that had never been so used before, resolved revenge thereupon (after a full stroke) wheeling his dreadful Sword about; he struck the Monster on the Helmet with such force, that cutting it through, the Sword entred six Inches, whereupon, with a terrible groan, he fell to the Earth, and at what time the King stood on him and devided his Head from his Trunk, the which he delivered to his Esquire that bore his Bow and Quiver. Nor were the Knights of the Order idle, for Sir *Lancelot* had by this time grievously wounded the Mercian King, and taken him Prisoner; and Sir *Tristrain* slain thirty six Captains, besides thirty six common Soldiers: so that the King of the East Angels seeing all go to wrack, and his Men were disordered, caused the Retreat to be sounded; whereupon his Captains endeavoured to bring off their Men, but they being in great Consternation, and the Britains pressing on them, (fearful of death) fled in all parts, and left all the Booty they had gotten to the Conquerors, who fiercely pursuing the flying Foe, made terrible slaughter, insomuch that such as could not fly into Castles and Strong-holds fell by the Sword, to the number of twenty thousand. This Overthrow being noised abroad, brought a great Fear upon all the Saxon Princes, so that the Mercians wholly submitted, and sent a great Ransom for their King; who upon his swearing to become Tributary and Vassal to King *Arthur*, was set at liberty. Nor were there any of their petty Kings that then possessed this Island, which they had divided into Heptiarchey, but sent their Ambassadors with great Presents to intreat a Peace: the which upon their acknowledging him their Supream Prince, and paying each two hundred Geldings, Faulcon, and a Grey-hound yearly was accorded to. And thus flourished this Renowned King in the beginning of his Reign, but more dreadful and redoubred were his future Deeds, as by the Sequel will appear.

C H A P.

*The History of King Arthur.*

C H A P. <sup>A</sup> III.

*How King Arthur passed into Denmark, conquered the Kingdom of Norway; overthrew Burnamissa, the Danish King; besieged Copenhagen; and how, at the Intreaty of Geneura, the Sister of the Danish King, he hearkened to an Accord, and had an Interview with Burnamissa, and how a Peace was concluded between them, upon the whole matter being left to the Princess's Award: and how King Arthur falling in Love with the fair Princess, married her.*

**T**He King having in a manner brought *England* to his subjection, resolved not to suffer the current of his Victory to be damed up with Ease, took counsel with *Merlyn* and the most valiant of his Knights, what Enterprize was next to be undertaken, who advised him, That it was most for his Honour to revenge the Injuries he had received by the Danes, who roaming about those Seas, had not only taken divers of his Ships, but (landing) had surprized some small Towns upon the Sea-coast, and burnt them, carrying the Inhabitants into miserable Captivity, and by cruel Tortures obliged them to offer Sacrifice to their Idols, that Kingdom being then unconverted. This motion pleased the King, whose restless spirit and desire of Glory made him impatient of ease; whereupon he caused a great Navy of Ships to be rigg'd in *Milford Haven*, and in all other Ports, and gave Order for the building Men of War and Gallies, so that in six Months space he had a Fleet of small and great Vessels that consisted of three hundred Sail, on which early in the Spring he imbarqued with twenty eight thousand choice Soldiers, and all manner of Warlike Provision; having by this time inroled twenty new Knights, to supply the places of such as fell by the Sword or dyed of divers Diseases; and so with a fresh gale weighing Anchor, and with a fair Wind arriving in the *Baltick Ocean*, entered the Straits, now guarded by the two famous Castles of *Coronsburg* and *Eizeburg*, the latter standing on the Coast of *Norway*, and there brought such a fear on either Shore, that the Inhabitants in all parts fled with what they could most conveniently carry, leaving the rest for a prey to the Britains, who under the conduct of their victorious King, enriched themselves with a great booty; when incamping before *Nidrosia* in *Norway*, summoned the City to yield, but there being a strong Garrison therein they returned this Answer, That they kept the City for *Bur-*



*The History of King Arthur.*

*Harald*, King of Denmark, and would in no wise yield it without his Order: Whereupon the King commanded the Assault to be made by twelve thousand Men, under the leading of forty four Knights of the Order of the Round Table, who having their Scaling Engines in a readiness, on Easter eve marched to the Wall, and with a shoure of Arrows and Wild fire drove the defendants thence; when as Sir Hector, bearing the Royal Standard, mounted, and making great slaughter of such as opposed, cutting off Arms, Legs, and Helmed Heads, placed it on the chief Bulwark, which the rest seeing, on all sides strove to imitate him, so within less than six hours the City was won, which the Conquered perceiving, retired to the Market-place, and throwing down their Arms begged Mercy; which the King generously granted: yet gave the Spoil of the City to the Soldiers, not reserving any part to himself, which so beightned them, that (leaving a Garrison there) passed on to Bergen, which upon the first Summons surrendered: and by its Example all the remaining Cities and walled Towns did the like so that the Kingdom of Norway was entirely at King Arthur's Devotion: whereupon finding no more to conquer, he having received a supply of five thousand Men to make up the number he brought, by reason he was forced to leave the like Number in Garrison, imbarqued, and passed the Straits, landed upon the Danish Shore, filling all with Terror and Amazement: when as that King having gathered a huge Army, advanced to give him Battle, which did not a little rejoyce King Arthur, who greatly desired to try his strength in War: when joyning, on the great Plain before Copen-Hagen, a dreadful fight began: but Victory (who never declined our Heroick Prince) soon declared for the Britains, so that the Danish King finding the Battle tooeerve, and that he could not stay his Men longer from open flight, to cover their Shame, sounded the Retreat: whereupon they retiring in great Confusion, King Arthur and his Knights following so furiously, that all the Plain was strewd with the bodies of the slain, and so hotly they pressed on, that ere three parts of the Army entered the City, the Gates were shut up, and a third part shut out, for fear the Britains should enter pell-mell with them, who were by the furious Soldiers slain in the sight of their Friends, though the compassionate King did spare the Sword.

The Danes thus overthrown, the King incamped before the City, resolving to carry it by force, and the next Day prepared for the Assault, resolving to march in the head of his Knights to win.

immortal Fame by his planting on  
his own Hands, or to lose his Life; nor could the very  
his Nobles make him decline it: but as he approached the Wall, the  
Gates opened, whereupon he supposed the Foe intended to sally, but  
instead of armed Men, there issued out a Troop of beautiful Ladies,  
and in the front of them the beauteous Genura, Sister to Barnamissa,  
the Danish King, whereat King Arthur much wondered, and com-  
manding his Men to stand in Battalia, with twelve Knights went  
to meet them, when as the Ladies approaching him, the fair and  
beauteous Princess fell at his feet, and bedewing the Ground with  
Tears, besought him to have Compassion on her distressed Country; the  
King being moved at this unnsal sight, in loving wise raised her in  
his Arms, and bid her be of good Comfort; but the sorrowful Lady,  
whom Tears made more lovely, refused all Comfort unless he would  
grant her Request, to which the King (overcome by Compassion) con-  
sented, after a short Pause, if what she demanded might consist with  
his Honour; whereupon opening a Casket that one of her Ladies held,  
she first presented him with Jewels of great value set in Gold, and  
then intreated that an Interview might be had between him and her  
Brother; to which the King readily consented, as already feeling  
Love's painted Shaft pierce his high proofed Armour, and presenting  
the fair Princess with a Crown of Gold set with Pearls and Diamonds,  
which had taken in the Mercian War, as likewise her Ladies with Jew-  
els of great price; he dismissed them, and caused a royal  
Tent to be pitched about a Furlong from the Vaux-guard of his  
Army.

Hostilities ceasing, the Danish King with twenty of his chief  
Nobility came to King Arthur's Tent, and there in humble wise  
would have prostrated themselves, but the King would not permit  
it; but making them sit down according to their Degree, entered  
into a Discourse with them, relating at large the justness of his  
taking up Arms and demanding Restitution for the Wrongs his  
Subjects had received, and for the Mischief his Country had su-  
stained: to which Barnamissa replied, That whatever had hapned  
in that Nature, had been without his Knowledge: but however  
knowing him to be a Prince of great Clemency, he would be well  
content to submit to whatever he should think fit: The King  
overcome by the meekness of the Dame, finding a relenting in his  
Breast, as generously offered to refer the whole matter to the beau-  
teous Princess, and bound himself to stand what Award she should  
make;

which was joyfully accepted by *Burnamissa*, who expected before, that no less than his Kingdom of *Normay* would make Satisfaction to the offended British Monarch: whereupon the Princess was sent for, who came, attended by divers Ladies of Honour, in most sumptuous Attire, glittering in Gold and Gems, which were out-vied by her incomparable Beauty; when making her Approach, King *Arthur* arose from his Chair of State and saluted her; as likewise his Knights did her Ladies: Then *Burnamissa* made her acquainted with the Pleasure of King *Arthur*; but she in Modesty refused to be Arbitress in so weighty a matter, till the King pressed it, and desired her to do him so great an Honour; whereupon after some Consideration she awarded, That her Brother should defray the whole Charge of the War, and restore all such Ships as were found to appertain to any of King *Arthur's* Subjects, and that the Offenders being taken, should be delivered to the King to dispose of as he thought fit, and then the King to depart the Land, and withdraw his Garrisons. These Articles were highly approved on either part, and the Princess her Wisdom admired: whereupon Commandment was given to proclaim them with beat of Drum and sound of Trumpet, and that from thenceforth all Hostility should cease.

Peace being thus happily accorded, the Danes rung their Bells and made Bon-fires in every City, all the Nobility feasting their poor Neighbours and Tenants throughout the Kingdom; when as the Danish King causing a royal Pavillion to be reared without the City, prepared a sumptuous Feast, to which he in humble wise invited the King and his Nobles, and so great was the Entertainment that the like had not been known before in that Kingdom.

But what pleased King *Arthur* more than all, was the sight of the fair Princess, with whom by this time he was most passionately in Love: Nor did the Feaver of his Desire less afflict her, though she durst not raise her Hopes so high; till at last the King (not longer able to resist the Magick of her Eyes) took the opportunity of breaking his Mind to her, who humbly told him with a demure Countenance, That she could not conceive herself worthy the Thoughts of so great a Monarch; but if it pleased him to condescend so low, as to raise her to such Dignity, she had no Argument against his Pleasure, if her Brother would consent. This pleasing Answer overjoyed the King, insomuch that sending for the Danish King, he desired to beg one Favour of him; Nay, replied

### *The History of King Arthur.*

plied *Burnamissa*, your Majesty may command even what you please, since to your Clemency I owe so much. Then said King *Arthur*, 'Tis this fair Pledge of lasting Peace that I with low Submission do request. If my Sister be contented, said the King, I am overjoyed at what I hear, and have long desired to be allaved unto so great a Prince, yet must not compel a free Mind. You need not (said the Princess, blushing like a Rosey Bloom that opens in June or July to the Morning-Sun) for I have already parted with that Heart that needs would go, upon Condition you consented, I do consent most willingly, replied the King; and thereupon taking King *Arthur* in his Right-hand, and the Princess in his left, he joyned their Hands, and at the Request of the former, *Seghert* the British Arch Bishop Married them, according to the Cannons of the British Church, pronouncing many dreadful Curses on whoever should attempt to untie the sacred Band. This known in the Camp and City, redoubled the Joy, so that all Night long whole Loads of Pines blazed, insomuch the Fires created a new Day as soon as Sol was set; and so sumptuous was the Feast, which lasted many Days, that *Rome* in all her Glory could not exceed it; the Martial Feats (to win Glory, and the Love of the Ladies) were so many that I have not place here to relate them.

### C H A P. IV.

*How returning home, King Arthur found his Country invaded by Magoor King of Ireland, and how he vanquished him; and having recovered the Isle of Angle-Sea from the French, sailed into France, to revenge the Injury done to his Subjects, overthrowing their Army. Also how Queen Genevra was delivered of a Son; and of the Presents and Poms made by the Saxon Kings: With a Full Description of the Knights of the Round Table.*

**T**He King having been absent from his own Dominions for the space of six Months, began to cast his Eye homeward; when having remitted *Burnamissa* the Charges he was at, and only gave order his Subjects Loss should be repaired, he with his fair Queen, whom the King loaded with rich Presents, took leave of the Danish Court, and imbarquing with the whole Army, and divers of the Danish Nobility, who from their King had order to attend the Queen; having a fair gale, on the ninth of *October* lan-



*The History of King Arthur.*

landed where they first imbarqued, and were received with universal joy; whereupon the King coming to a Castle of his, near *Cardniff*, feasted the *Dainish* Nobility in a most splended manner. But whilst he remained there, he had notice, That *Magor* King of *Ireland*, who by his Ambassadours had courted the fair *Genura*, and been refused, was (to revenge it on his Arrival) landed with great Power in *South Wales*; whereupon the King comforting his Queen, who was greatly grieved that through her cause such sudden Troubles should arise, passed on with his victorious Army, and gave him Battle near *Merioneth*, and utterly discomfited him, so that flying with his broken Army, and being every where assailed by the Country Peasants, who had laid the way for him, he scarcely escaped to his Ships with five thousand out of his thirty thousand; so that King *Arthur* (speedy as *Cesar* in his Victories) returned to his fair Queen with the Trophies of his conquered Enemies long before he was expected to have fought the Battle; when sending four thousand Men under the leading of Sir *Lancelot* and divers of her good Knights, they landed on the Isle of *Angle sea*, and drove thence the French that had for some time past, during the troubles of this Kingdom, settled themselves there.

The King's Victories daily increasing, the Terror of his Name being spread wide, it made the most redoubted Monarch tremble; yet durst *France* (then powerful at Sea) invade our Coast, and with fire and sword spoiled many Sea towns, carrying away great booty, as also the People, the Men they made row in their Gallies, and the Women to satiate their prodigious Lust; when as the crys of his suffering subjects reaching his ear where he was delighting himself with his Queen, he resolved once more to forsake the Camp of *Venus*, and her soft Delights, to court Fame and Glory in the Camp of *Mars*: whereupon having sent to *Lotharius* for Restitution, and receiving rather scorns than a satisfactory answer from that imperious King, he made great preparations for the War, and had that time twelve Sail of Ships sent to his aid by his Brother of *Denmark*: when being in a readiness with an Army of thirty four thousand, he coasted the Country, and putting into the bay of *Marselies*, with his shot of Arrows that flew like Hail, drove the Detendants from the shore, on which himself with his own Standard first leaped, and stood like an enraged Lion, though a thousand Shafts flew round his Head, and many rebounded from his glittering shield: but long it was not e're the valiant Knights of the Order (imitating their Sovereign) thrust their  
Shir



### *The History of King Arthur.*

Ships to Land, and putting their Soldiers in Battle array, charged furiously upon the foremost Battalion of the Enemy, led by the Duke *De Vallois*, so that being overlet, they retreated in great disorder, and finding no place to be received, broke the Ranks of their Friends: when as the Duke *De Nevers* advanced with the right wing of Horse to their succour, but was so gauled with the shot of Arrows, that the Horses Mitcheiv'd more the Riders than the Brit ins.

In this Confusion the King drawing one six thousand of his choice Men, charged upon the disordered Enemy with such courage that he pierced their main Battle, making lanes of Death where ever he came cutting off Arms, Heads and Legs, insomuch that the Danish General *Gironess* imitating him, the French Soldiers (routed in all parts) left their Commanders and fled, insomuch that the slaughter of the Nobility was graat, a Fate even incident that Kingdom: nor would they tust to the weak wall of *Marselies*, but flying to *Lyon* and *Paris*, left that part of the Country naked, to be possessed of by the Britains.

The terror of this overthrow alarming the French Court, and finding that brought home to them which they had uted to others abroad, the People with Tears besought their King to appease the Conqueror in time, and thereby prevent worse desolation, who considering his tottering Kingdom was at stake, sent four of his prime Lords to beg a Week's Cessation or Truce, to which King *Arthur* (whose aim was more at *Gloay* and Renown than Advantage) accorded: during which time, the King having raised a Million of Crowns sent them in divers Waggon, with other rich Presents, to purchase his Peace, and the departure of his new come Guest, yet prevailed they not ere he had made his Acknowledgment for the indignity put upon the King's Ambassadors, and deliver the Town and Port of *Marselies*, to be possessed as a Pledge of future Peace by the Britains for the space of twenty Years to come, and upon pain of forfeiting it for ever, no Hostilities to be used by Land, nor Depredations by Sea. These Articles accorded, the King hastened to his own Country with the greatest part of his Army, leaving only two thousand Soldiers in *Marselies*: and having amply rewarded the Danes, dismissed them.

Upon King *Arthur's* return, he found, to his unspeakable joy, his fair Queen delivered of a lovely Boy, who, by the Advice of Merly, he named *Constantinus*, whose Victories and great Exploits that Prophet fore-told, which after his Father's death, he succeeding him in his Throne, exactly came to pass: and now the joy being great

*The History of King Arthur.*

great throughout the British Dominions, all the Saxon Kings came to King *Arthur's* Court, then removed to the then flourishing City of *Hertford*, and made their Homage, complementing him highly on his Marriage, and the birth of his Son, presenting the Queen and Royal Infant with great Presents, as Jewels, Gold, and fragrant Spice of *Acabia*, promising for them and their Heirs to be obedient to the British Scepter, though before and after the Death of King *Arthur* they brake their Vows, though to their great disadvantage: For the young Prince (almost as successful in War as his Father) grasped the Kingdoms of the Mercians and East-angles with so hard a hand, that during his Life, they could not wrest them from him; but to our purpose King *Arthur* being the chief Favourite of Fortune, and the eldest Son of Fame, began to enlarge the splendor of his Court, and increase the number of the Knights of the Round Table, in whom consisted his chief Strength, for scarce was there any one of them, but durst encounter ten ordinary Men hand to hand; and as he increased them, so he enlarged their Pensions, which drew the most Valiant of all Nations to serve him, though none were admitted before they were tryed: The habit they ordinarily wore, when without their Armour, was a Vest lined with Sables, and on the back of it a red Cross, and on their Thighs Cushes of highest proof; their Stockings were in the manner of Buskins, and their Shoes of Camels-skin, the Hair appearing outward; on their Heads they wore Caps made of Seal-skins lined with Silk and Cotted; and about their neck Silk of divers colours; each of them in War carrying a double Faulchion, a Battle-axe, a Bow and Quiver, a Lance, being severally allowed a Esquire or Armour-bearer, who attended them in all Battles.

C H A P. V.

*How King Arthur upon the Relation of a Hermit, sailed into the Holy Land, took Joppa, overthrew Salmanezar, and took Jerusalem, with what else happened remarkable on that occasion.*

**A**Bout this time King *Arthur* finding nothing worthy of his Sword at home, and altogether impatient of ease, studied how he might employ it abroad, and whilst he was musing thereon, an Hermit in poor array came to the Court, and filled it at once with pity and desire of revenge upon the dismal Relation he made, which was, That the *Turks* and *Sarazens* had fallen upon *Judea* and

*The History of King Arthur.*

Palatine with an Army of one million of Men, and made such slaughter of the Christians in those parts, that such that escaped were forced to fly into Rocks and Caves of the Earth, and there were either starved to Death, or became a Prey to wild Beasts: And that they had taken the Holy City of *Jernsalem*, after thirty days Siege, and put almost all the Christians they found therein to their Sword, polluting the Temple and Holy Sepulchre with their Heathenish Worship: As also, that they impaired the Patriarch alive for refusing to worship *Mahomer*.

The Story coming to the King's ear, he could not refrain from shedding tears; when sending for the Hermit, in the presence of his Nobles, he most strictly examined him to all particulars, and finding he delivered nothing but what (as he said) himself had been an Eye-witness to; the King turning to his Lords, said, *Hear you this, my Lords, shall we suffer the Enemies of our Lord and Saviour thus to Triumph over the professors of his Name?* To which they with one Voice replied, *That it was intolerable, and they were ready to venture their Lives and Fortunes in that Holy War, and his Service.* Whereat the King highly commending their Resolutions, vowed by the Passion of his blessed Lord, whom those Infidels defied and blasphemed, he would not take pleasure in any thing till he had faced those barbarous Nations, and tryed his Fortune to free the Holy City from its Pollution; and thereupon he sent to all the neighbouring Princes for Aid resolving to set sail in the Spring, it being now the middle of *August*: He likewise laid double Taxes upon his own Subjects, and demanded double Tribute of the Saxon Princes, who did not so willingly pay it at that time as was expected, by reason most of them were unconverted, and therefore secretly rejoiced at the Prosperity of their Brother Infidels: But however the King raised a great Mass of Money, and caused his Navy to be augmented; so that from *France*, *Denmark*, and other parts of *Spain*, having received fifty Ships of War, most of them manned with Volunteers of those Nations, he with two hundred Sail, on board of which he had five thousand Men, in the beginning of *April*, weighed Anchor, and having a fair Wind, coasting to *France* and *Spain*, he joyued likewise divers other Ships, who were ready to attend him, for the noise of this War had overspread all Christendom: when passing through the Straits into the Mediteranian Sea, he brought such a fear upon the Sea-towns, that the Infidels inhabiting them, fled with their substance to the Mountains, into which

*The History of King Arthur.*

the Christians entering, found yet some booty; but (desirous to pass on to *Jerusalem*) the King failed to the Isle of *Cyprus*, then governed by one *Emanuel* a Christian, where having refreshed his Army, he again imbarqued, and sailing through that tract of Seas, arrived at *Joppa*, a famous Sea-port, and the In-let of *Palastine*, which he found strongly fortified, as likewise *Salnæzer*, King of the *Turks* incamped with a Host of one Million of *Turks*, *Jews*, and *Sarazens* about six Miles from thence; yet landing his Men, he resolved to besiege the City, and by taking it, secure the Port; whereupon causing his Engineers to make divers batterings after the *Roman* fashion, which under the favour of the night (notwithstanding the Besieged hurled down Wild fire and stones in great abundance) they set to the Walls on the North-side, and by force of Cords battered with such Fury, that they rent the Vamures in divers places, making the City tremble, which so alarum'd the Infidels, that they sallied ten thousand strong upon the quarter, guarded by the Earl of *Merioneth*, but coming to handy strokes, were forced to retire five thousand less than they came; and the next Morning, by King *Arthur's* expresse Command, a furious Assault was given on all parts, when as the Britains with their shot of Arrows beating the Besieged from their defences, mounted and planted the King's Standard upon the Wall, entering and killing the Infidels in great number, so that all the streets ran Blood, till such time as the King (upon their throwing down their Arms, and on their knees begging Mercy) did spare the Sword; when having expelled them the Town, he placed a Garrison of divers Nations therein, and marched to joyn Battle with *Salnæzer*.

The Infidels being greatly troubled at the loss of *Joppa*, desired their General to lead them to Battle ere the Christians advanced any further; to which, after many delays he consented, and on the fifteenth of *July* early in the morning advanced; in hopes to surprize the Christians, but finding them in battle array, he began to repent his rashness: but finding no means now to retire, unless with loss and disgrace, he divided his Army into three parts, the first (containing forty thousand Men) he lead himself; the second (containing thirty six thousand) he committed to his Brother *Albanmazet*, a Gyant of great stature, fierce and cruel; and the third (containing twenty four thousand) to *Gonzales*, Governour of *Jerusalem*: Nor did King *Arthur* delay to Marshal his Battle in the best manner, leading the first Battallian, consisting of two thousand choice

*The History of King Arthur.*

Soldiers, and an hundred Knights of the Order for the guard of his person: the second battle (consisting of ten thousand) he committed to *Batanius Duke of Cornwall*; the third battle (consisting of ten thousand) he committed to *Sir Lancelot du Lake*; the fourth (consisting of the like number) was lead by *Frovinus* a noble Dane: When as both Armies (marching in this posture) came face to face, leaving a little space between, a monstrous Pagan stepping forth, demanded (e're the Charge was founded, a Man to fight him hand to hand, and that the combat should be for no less than the City of *Jerusalem*, or the departure of the Christians, if King *Arthur* durst agree to it: Whereupon the King having sent to the *Turk* to know if he would stand to what his proud Champion propos'd, and finding him inclinable thereto, he thought no Sword more fit than his own to chastise the Daring; when (contrary to the mind of his Nobles) disguising himself in the Armour of one of his Knights, he stepped forth, and without much ceremony, charged him with such fury, that at one full blow he broke his Helme, and made him stagger six paces back, yet recovering his station, he the more enraged, resolved to obliterate the disgrace that he had sustained, in the sight of his Prince



and his whole Army, came on with double fury, foaming and storming for shame and anger to be so fyled, he smote the King



*The History of King Arthur.*

with such force, that he loosed his Helme and made his eyes swim daizy: but he nothing daunted thereat, as the Gyant was about to redouble his stroke, struck him so full on the right Arm, that his Battle-axe fell to the Ground, when pursuing his stroke, he struck him as he bended to recover it on the neck, so that the Sword entering, caused a deep wound, out of which issued great quantity of Blood, so that the King finding through loss thereof he must needs faint, kept him off, as not thinking it safe to hazard too eagerly his Person when the conquest was already made; nor did his expectation fail; for the Gyant finding his strength decay, like a Lamp, which at going out, gives the greatest blaze, taking his Axe in both hands, smote upon the King in great fury, and with a full stroke upon his Shoulder, crushed his Armour, and much bruised him; at which time the King with undaunted courage gave him another wound on the left Arm between the joynts of his Harnes, and pursuing it with a thrust, pierced his Coat of Mail and high-proved Cushes, so that the Sword entering a foot into his bowels, he with a dismal groan fell to the Earth: whereupon the Pagans, contrary to the promise of their King, sounded the charge, refusing to stand to what had been sworn; the which so enraged the Christian Soldiers, that redoubling their fury upon the signal given, they charged so furiously upon the Infidels, that the Battle wherein *Abumazar* fought was by King *Arthur* and his Squadron over-borne, and pierced even to the middle, where Sir *Gawen*, a Knight of the Order having killed the Standard-bearer, took the Standard even in the Infidel King's sight, which made him advance with all his strength to recover it; but finding great resistance, after he had fought, and by words strove to animate his Men, labouring in vain to stay their flight, he turned furiously upon his second Battle that was advancing; being hotly pursued by the Christians, and finding no place to retreat, he put them in great disorder; when as Sir *Lancelot* fetching a compass about, charged them in the flank on the right, and so gauled them with shots of Arrows, that after many were slain and wounded, nothing but the cries of the Vanquished, and the shouts of the Vanquishers, to be heard, the rest of King *Arthur's* Battles advancing, and charging them in the left, they (after making what resistance they were able, and the loss of four thousand of their best Soldiers, their King being sore wounded and carried out of the Battle) fell into disorder, and in great confusion fled, every one seeking for himself, so that the Execution following with great fury, scarce two thousand escaped the Sword.     H The

### *The History of King Arthur.*

The Victory thus happily gained, the Christians found such store of Treasure in the Camp, that it was wonderful, the which the King sharing amongst his Soldiers, according as every one had deserved, and well refreshed his Army, sending the Wounded of his part to *Lopez*, and buried the Slain; he with Banners spread, marched towards *Jerusalem*, bringing a great fear on all the Cities in his way, most of which surrendered upon the first Summons; so that coming before the Holy City, whither the greatest part of the scattered Army was retired, he having Summoned the Infidels to yield and save their Lives, but receiving no answer, he battered with his Rams, War-wolves, and other fearful Engines, till a part of the Wall on the South-side fell, upon which a furious Assault was given, insomuch, that the Infidels having drawn their greatest strength to defend the breach, a great slaughter was made; yet the Christians resolving to carry the City, which then was but small, and very ravenous, pressed on with such violence, that the fearful Enemy being over-borne, were every where slain; and the Christians entering, placed King *Arthur's* Standards upon the Bulwarks, which so dismayed the Infidels, that such as could, fled by the Posterns, and over the Brook *Cedron*, other had themselves in Caves till the fury of the Soldiers were over, and such as could not do either, fell the most part by the Sword.

This famous City, being the first time thus taken by the Christians, a great number of miserable Men and Women were released out of Dungeons, who had for a long time been fed with Bread of Affliction, half starved, and miserably used by the Infidels, for publicly owning the Name of the Lord, who not far from thence, purchased them with his precious Blood to their unspeakable Joy.

### C H A P. V.

*How, upon notice that the Saxons invaded his Country, he returned; and how upon his return, the Saxon King laid down their Arms: Also how King Arthur built many Religious Houses, and gave great Largesses to the Poor; and how he swore Nobles and Knights to his Son Constantine, and so died.*

**T**HE King having thus performed his Vow, repaired the Walls, built a strong Castle, and placed seven thousand Soldiers therein, besides the Christians of *Syria* and *India*, that daily flocked thither in great numbers; he received notice, that the Saxon

pet-

*The History of King Arthur.*

petty Kings in his absence had cast off his Allegiance; and being united, invaded his Country, insomuch that his Queen, Son, and those that he had left in charge with the Kingdom, being overthrown in a pitched Battle, were fled to the fastnesses of *Snow-down* Mountains. Which News greatly perplexed the King; so that having made his Offering at the Holy Sepulchre, and constituted Religious Men to keep it, he with three parts of his Army he brought, returned to his Ships, the other part being either slain in the Battle, perished by Sickness, or left in the Garrison; yet ere he could imbarque, twenty seven thousand *Turks*, *Sarazens*, and *Agiptians*, lying in ambush in a Wood for that purpose, fell upon the Rear of his Army, and cut off three or four hundreds Britains and Danes ere the King with the Gros of his Battle could draw up to their relief; yet fatal was it to the Infidels; for being unexpectedly inclosed by the Christians, who fetch'd a compass behind divers little Hills, they were almost all of them cut off.

This second Overthrow given, the King quietly imbarqued his Soldiers, and sailing by divers Islands, destroyed the Garrisons possessed by the Infidels: When one day going on shore on the Promontory of *Carthage*, with a few of his Knights, he was set upon by four hundred *Moors*, who sallied out of *Phris*; but such was his and his Knights invincible Courage, that they drawing their Swords, slaughtered the Barbarians in such manner, that they fled with great crys, taking them to be more than mortal; whereupon the King causing eight thousand Men instantly to come on shore besieged the City, and with Wild-fire burnt it about the Barbarians Ears, putting many of them to the Sword: And then marching up farther into the Country, there came against them 16 huge Lions, bred in the Muritarian Forrest, with whom the King and twenty of his Knights encountering, killed twelve, and put the other four to flight.

King *Arthur*, impatient of stay, least whilst he conquered abroad his Country should suffer with great spoyl, but again to Sea, and sailing homeward, met with a Fleet of Pyrates, who taking his Ships for Merchants, set upon the foremost Squadron with loud shouts, casting great quantity of Stones and Wild-fire amongst them, but coming to grapple, they soon found their mistake, and then in vain endeavouring to fly, were miserably slaughtered, insomuch, that out of thirty, but five escaped: In these Ships many miserable Christian Captives, both Men and Women, were found

*The History of King Arthur.*

found, of which the King taking compassion, sent them into their respective Countreies, allowing them all things necessary for their maintenance during the space of a Year, and so passed on towards his own Country.

The King's approach being known to the Saxon Princes (who not long before had news that he was dead in the Holy Land, and thereby were animated to take up Arms) so discouraged them, that withdrawing their Forces, every one retired into his own Province, to study how to appease the Victorious Monarch, whom they had justly incensed by their perfidious Treachery, and as soon as they had notice the King was landed and preparing his Forces to War against them, they sent their respective Deputies with rich Presents, to excuse their rash and unadvised actions, promising never for the future to transgress in the like nature, yet the King being highly incensed, would at no cheaper rate pass over their perfidious dealings, than a personal acknowledgment, and the sum of two thousand Marks each: As to be the better assured of them for the future, that each of them should send his Son Hostage, and that those that had no Sons, to send their nearest Kinsmen, and over and above, to make reparation for such damages as could be by any of the King's Subjects proved to be sustained by their unlawful Arms. This being performed, a Peace ensued, and the King dismissed his Auxiliaries with great Rewards.

King *Arthur* now having leisure to repose in Peace, and think on his many wonderful Deliverances, resolved to apply his mind to Deeds of Piety; and thereupon caused many Monastries and Religious Houses to be built, giving yearly maintenance to divers poor People, but especially to such as had lived in splendor, and were fallen to decay: And daily he visited the Sick, giving them Christian Comfort: and using his utmost endeavour to cherish Learning and Arts, to which end at his proper charge he built likewise many Schools and Colleges, giving himself wholly up to the study of the seven Liberal Sciences; and so well profited he therein, that he became the greatest Master therein of his Age: But most of all, he fixed his thoughts upon his latter end, and with *Solomon* was frequently heard to say, All worldly things were but Vanity and Vexation of Spirit; and that on Earth no real nor substantial Joys were to be found. when in the sixeth Year of his Age, and the forty ninth Year of his Reign, falling sick, and by the opinions of his Physicians not likely to recover, he sent for all his Nobles, and the Knights of the Order, and

*The History of King Arthur.*

and he caused them to swear Fealty to his Son, comforting them in the best wise; and thereupon finding himself decay, after divers pious Expressions, and Prayers, exhorting his Nobles to be careful of securing his Son in his Throne, and having great respect to his Queen, he gave up the Ghost, to the great grief of his Subjects, but more of his fair Queen, who took it so grievously, that soon after falling into a Fever, she dyed; and was buried with him in a Monastery, built by him at *Mammouth* whose Tomb (richly adorned) continued visible till the Dissolution of the Fabrick in the time of *Henry the Eighth*.

*Thus, Friendly Reader, I've abstracted here,  
King Arthur's Noble Acts, which also appear  
More fully in the larger ten Sheet Book,  
If thou therein, will cast a friendly Look.*

F I N I S.





